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In places Mr. Rogers might have added to the value of his contribution by making a more intensive analysis of some of the more important decisions with which he deals. He is inclined now and then to take judicial declarations at their face value, without probing beneath to discover and evaluate the assumptions on which they rest. He is slow to criticize judicial lapses in logic. On controverted questions which aroused vigorous dissent from a strong minority of the court, he is too often content to accept the decision as a final settlement of the issue, when it is not unlikely that the Supreme Court will continue to be divided, and that a position once rejected may be accepted later. But this inadequacy, for those who deem it one, is largely compensated for by the author's own contribution to the various problems.

THOMAS REED POWELL.

American Negro Slavery. By ULRICH B. PHILLIPS. New York, D. Appleton and Company, 1918.—xi, 529 pp.

Of books recently published on American history, one of the most interesting and helpful, not only for the student but for the general reader who would inform himself concerning the life of the antebellum South, is Professor Phillips' *American Negro Slavery*. The author traces the growth or expansion of Negro Slavery from the time of the Arabs who took it to northern Africa, through the Crusades, to that of Prince Henry the navigator, who played the biggest part in establishing it in Portugal and Spain, whence the institution with all its activities spread to America. An interesting feature of this development was the establishment of the plantation system in southern Spain, through the expulsion of the Moors from the Kingdom of Granada by Ferdinand and Isabella. The average student of American history is not accustomed to think of slavery as playing any part in the life of the European mother states further than the mere slave trade. But this slave trade soon became a great international problem backed by monopoly granted by the various kings. This monopoly was settled by international law in the treaty of Utrecht, 1713, when it passed to England. Huge fortunes were made in the slave trade. Our own Peter Faneuil was able to build the cradle of liberty in this way. Trading companies, through slavery, slave trade and the tobacco industry, developed into commonwealths, and representative government was established. The significance of the trade in economic history is enormous.

The further evolution of slavery in America is shown in that the institution was in the form of indentured servitude at first and that Negroes were not regarded as slaves, and became free when they served out their period of indenture. Slavery was not really a legal institution, but was later legalized when its economic value demanded it after it had supplanted white servitude. In this connection a very interesting comparison of two Puritan colonies is made, showing how slavery could be veneered with religion if climate or soil made the institution profitable. This furnishes a prototype for the action of the churches of the South from the later thirties to the sixties.

The chapter on "Revolution and Reaction" shows how the so-called abolition movement in the New England states during this period did not abolish slavery then existing, but was only intended to disestablish slavery in the course of a generation or two. The movement had no clearly visualized purpose at this time, but was the expression of an anti-slavery feeling in which all parts of the country shared. Disestablishment of slavery in Massachusetts occurred through a judicial interpretation of a clause in the Bill of Rights, which doubtless was never intended to apply to Negroes when it was inserted in the Constitution. This anti-slavery feeling expressed itself in a very liberal attitude toward the Negro in Maryland and Virginia, but it is also true that the same feeling existed in North Carolina and Tennessee. Bassett's *Anti-slavery Leaders in North Carolina* shows that the free Negro had the suffrage in North Carolina to 1835 and there is abundant evidence to show that Tennessee was a leader in the anti-slavery movement. The free Negro voted in Tennessee to 1834, and there was considerable opposition to disfranchising him. It is customary, however, for writers to leave unnoticed this sentiment in North Carolina and Tennessee.

Professor Phillips' book is a valuable contribution to American history. The chapters on the westward movement, the cotton régime, plantation management, the tendencies of the plantation, and the economics of slavery are the most illuminating. The wastefulness of the slavery régime is so thoroughly established that the author is convinced that it was the most expensive system of labor that could be adopted and that it would finally have been abandoned. Its merits and demerits are chiefly stated thus:

The slave-holding regions kept money scarce, population sparse and land values accordingly low; it restricted the opportunities of many men of both races, and it kept many of the natural resources of the southern country neglected. But it kept the main body of labor con-

trolled, provisioned, ownable. Above all, it maintained order and a notable degree of harmony in a community where confusion worse confounded would not have been far to seek. Plantation slavery had in strictly business aspects at least as many drawbacks as it had attractions. But in the large it was less a business than a life, it made fewer fortunes than it made men.

The author has an interesting style. There has also been a very thorough consultation of the sources, so that the book, while it is very satisfying, will lead the student into the literature of a life which has played at times a very serious part in American history, and at no time an unimportant one. The book is well indexed and will be invaluable to students and teachers of American history. The author's birth and early life in Georgia, and his residence as student and teacher in various sections of the country, make him peculiarly fitted to write an account of the most misunderstood institution of American history.

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National Progress, 1907-1917. (*The American Nation: A History, Volume 27*). By FREDERIC AUSTIN OGG. New York, Harper and Brothers, 1918.—xxii, 430 pp.

The thesis until recently defended by most historians and still maintained by some, that a narrative of recent events can be nothing more than journalism, has been subject of late to a good many attacks. And now comes Professor F. A. Ogg, well known as a scholar and author of histories and books on government and politics, with a new attack. He does not argue against the thesis, it is true, but he produces evidence against it in the shape of a new volume, of *The American Nation* series, which covers the period from 1907 to 1917. The book possesses all the distinguishing characteristics of the most orthodox historical work. Authorities, often sources, are painstakingly cited for every important statement. There is appended a critical bibliography that is second to none in a series that is noted for the fullness and excellence of its bibliographies—a bibliography which, incidentally, is a god-send to every teacher and student of recent American history. The writer's style is historical. In spite of nearness to the events which he narrates, he maintains a detached attitude, except that he displays sympathy for progressive policies whether formulated by a Democratic or a Republican administration.